

Issue | February 2024



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

in January 2024 Safefood-Online recorded 440 new notifications. You can find the evaluations under point1.

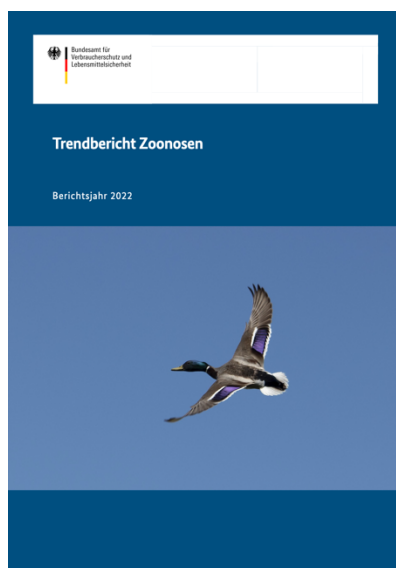
Point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" informs about new maximum levels regarding nicotine, deoxynivalenol (DON) and T-2/HT-2 toxin. You will also find an update about the findings of mono-n-hexylphthalate in urine.

News around Food Safety and Food Fraud can be found under points 3 and 4.

In February, the topic of the month is the OpenFoodTox database from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has published the "[Trend Report Zoonoses](#)" for 2022.

The report contains the data submitted by the BVL to the EFSA.



Source: BVL

The background is the EU Directive 2003/99/EC (Zoonoses Monitoring Directive), which obliges each EU-Member State to collect data on the assessment of zoonoses and their pathogens as well as on antibiotic resistance and to transmit this data to EFSA.

Here the link to the "[One Health 2022 Zoonoses Report](#)" of the EFSA and the ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your opinion.

Your Safefood-Online Team

## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: February 2024

Compared to the previous month, in February the number of notifications increased again from 389 to 440 notifications:

- **February 2024:** 440
- January 2024: 389
- December 2023: 398

The notifications from February 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 105
- Border rejections: 134
- Information messages: 201



### Note:

Only the RASFF notifications are included in the comparison, as the notifications from the EU Monthly Food Fraud Summary Report are not published until the middle of the following month.

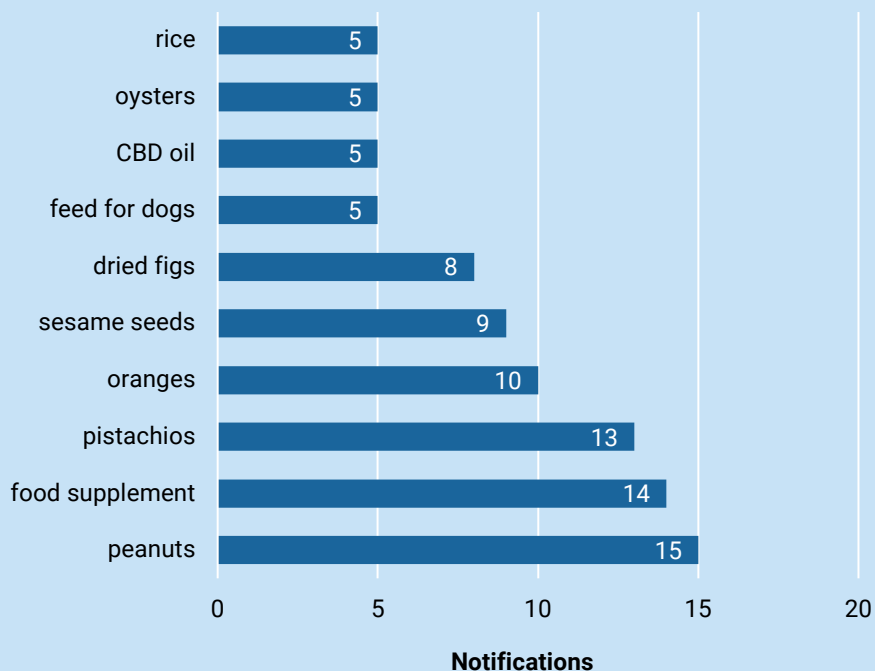
The product category fruit, vegetables and pulses is in first place in the evaluation by product category with 88 notifications. 62 notifications concerned findings of pesticides, 21 of which related to chlorpyrifos. The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 49 notifications, 30 notifications due to aflatoxins. The product category cereals and bakery products is following in third place with 32 notifications. Rice and rice products account for a third of the notifications:

### Notifications February 2024: Top 10 product categories



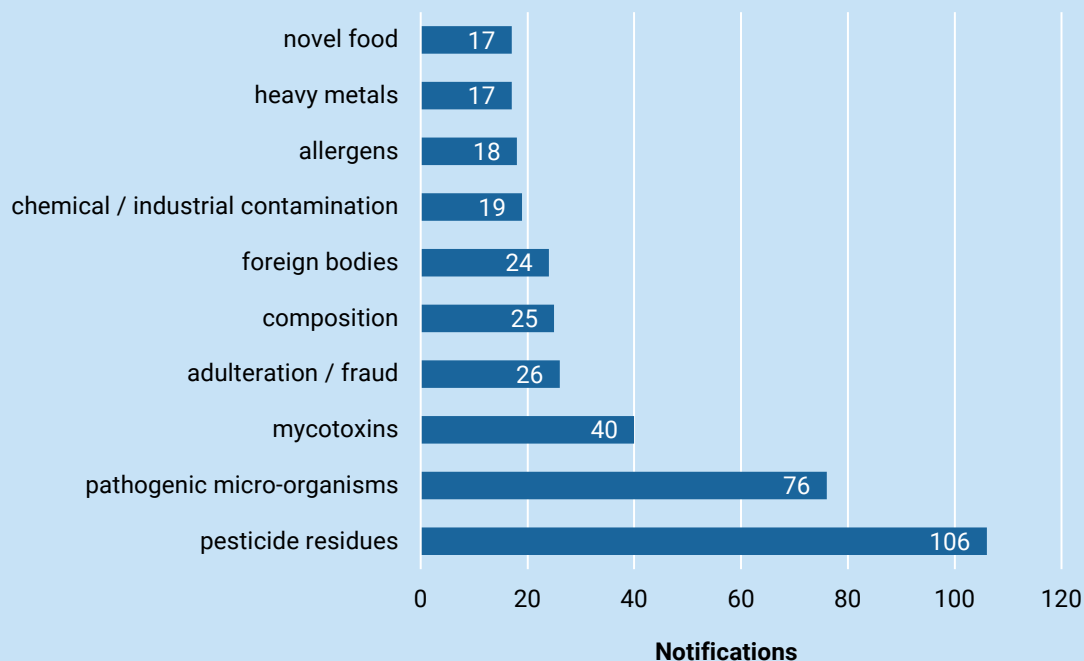
Compared to January, the two products with the most notifications have switched positions: With 15 notifications (13 notification related to aflatoxins), peanuts are in first place in the evaluation by product, followed by food supplements with 14 notifications. Pistachios remain in third place with 13 notifications:

### Notifications February 2024: Top 10 products



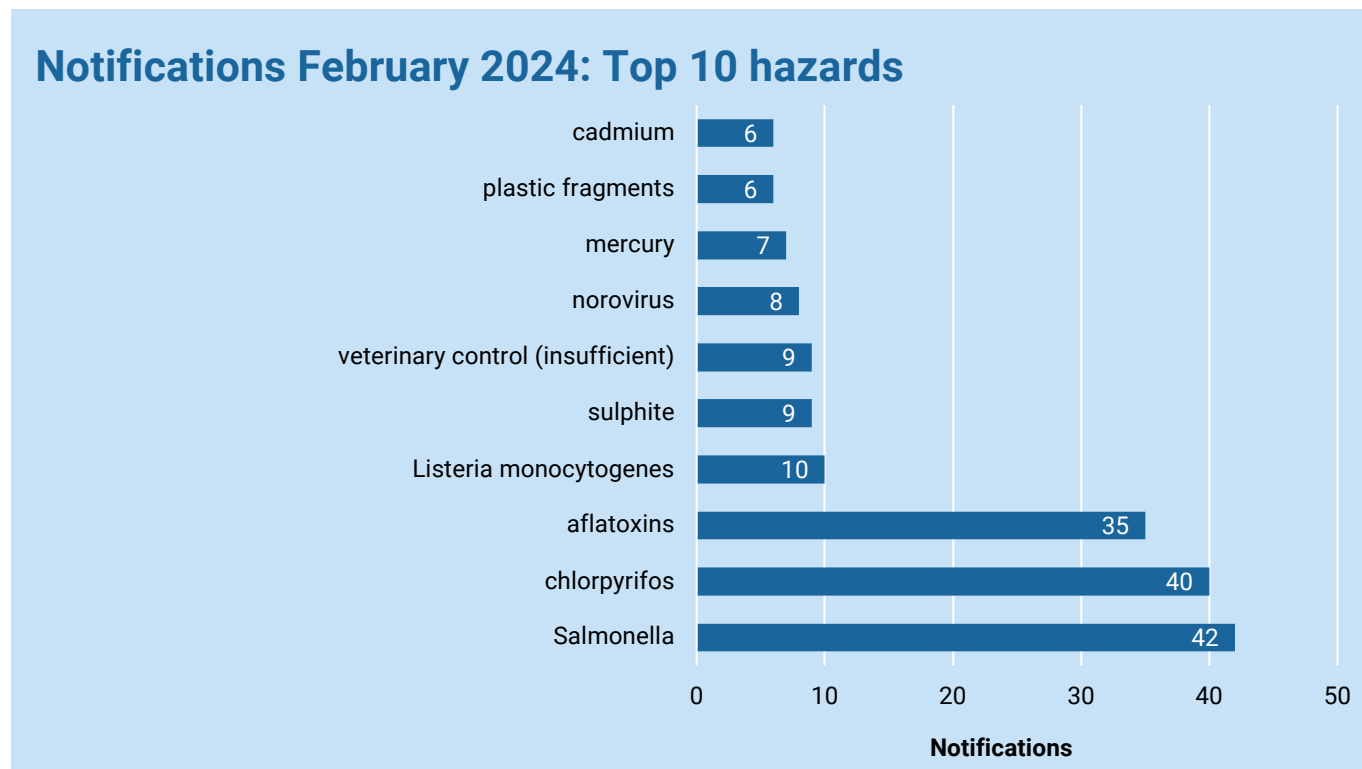
In the evaluation of notifications by hazard category, pesticides are in first place with 106 notifications. 40 notifications (38%) are concerning chlorpyrifos. Pathogenic micro-organisms and mycotoxins are following with 76 and 40 notifications:

### Notifications February 2024: Top 10 hazard categories

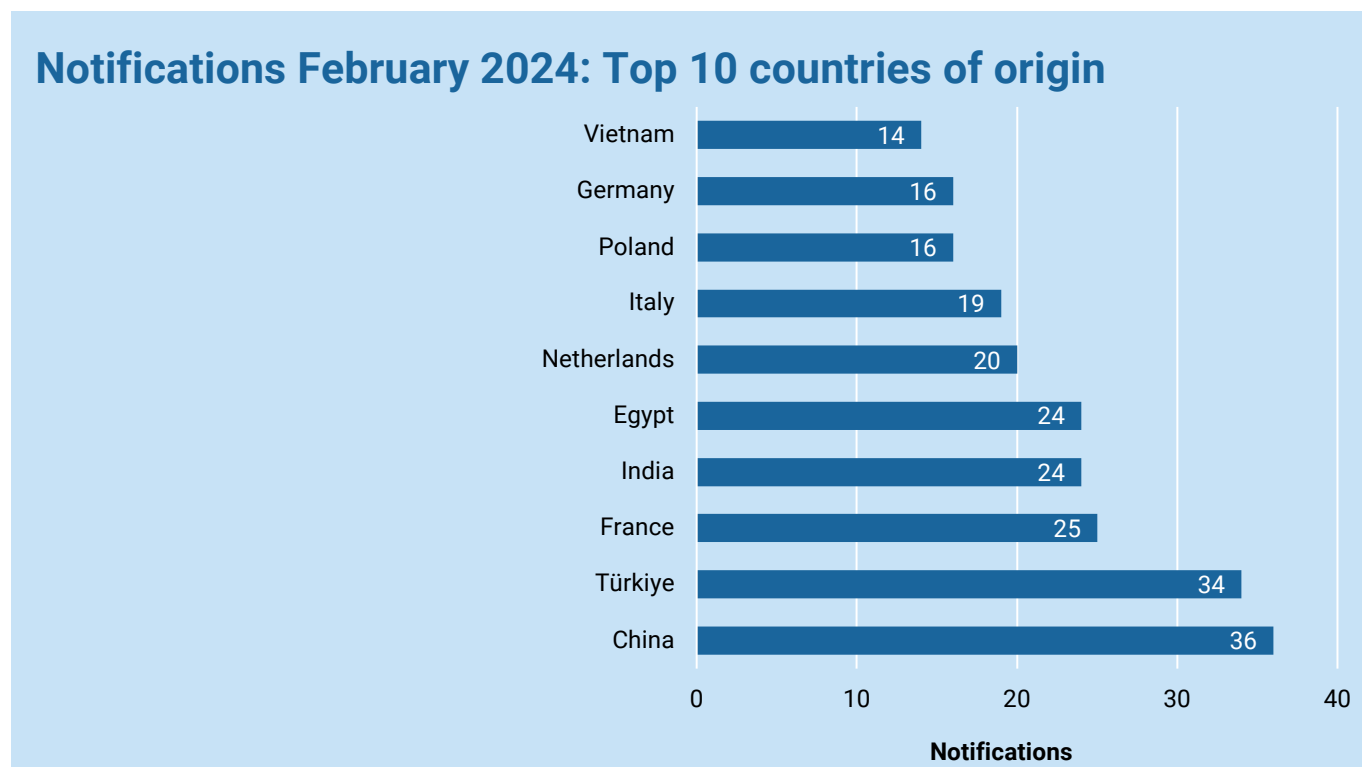


## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: February 2024

In terms of hazards, salmonella are in first place with 42 notifications, followed by chlorpyrifos and aflatoxins with 40 and 35 notifications:



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products:



China takes first place according to the country of origin of the products with 36 notifications. Türkiye follows in second place with 34 notifications and France with 25 notifications.



## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



We will inform you when the two regulations are published in the Official Journal of the European Commission.

### Mono-n-hexylphthalate (MnHexP)

On February 13, 2024, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published **information on mono-n-hexylphthalate (MnHexP)** in urine samples.

The background to this is the follow-up investigation by the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection of North Rhine-Westphalia (LANUV) of older urine samples from children due to a suspected case. On January 31, 2024, the LANUV issued a **press release** on the subject entitled "New findings of plasticizers in children's urine". Based on this press release, the German Federal Environmental Agency published **Q&A's** on the topic on February 6, 2024.

In the **press release dated February 23, 2024**, the German BfR stated that "the concentrations of the substance mono-n-hexyl-phthalate (MnHexP) detected in urine samples do not give cause for increased concern according to an initial, preliminary assessment.

### Regulation (EU) 2024/451

Regulation (EU) 2023/377 introduced new maximum residue levels (MRLs) for nicotine and lowered existing limits in 2023. After the industry submitted specific monitoring data, the European Commission set with **Regulation (EU) 2024/451** the MRLs for all spices at 0.3 mg/kg.

For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

### New maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) and T-2/HT-2 toxin

New or amended maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) and T-2/HT-2 toxin are to apply in the EU from July 01, 2024.

- Deoxynivalenol (DON):

**Draft regulation**  
**Annex**

- T-2/HT-2 toxin:

**Draft Regulation**  
**Annex**

Further information on the new regulations (with a tabular overview of the amended limit values) can also be found on the AGRINFO website:

**Reduction of maximum levels of deoxynivalenol in cereals and cereal products**

**Maximum levels for T-2/HT-2 toxins in food**



## Food Safety

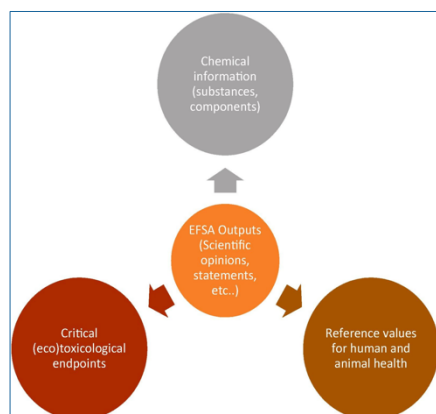
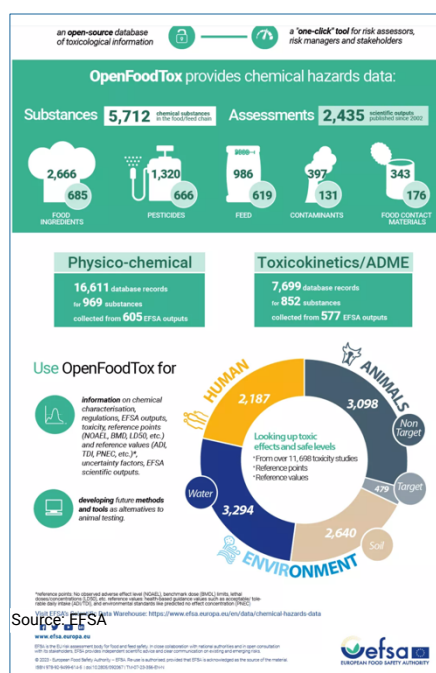
- 🕒 According to a new study, a fungal disease could reduce global wheat production by 13% by 2050, which corresponds to a loss of 60 million tonnes per year. The fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae* (the cause of rice blast and one of the most economically important plant pathogens) thrives under the conditions created by the climate change in tropical regions
- 🕒 UK: Food Standard Agency (FSA) proposes an ethylene oxide limit to align with the EU
- 🕒 ECDC: Listeriosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 ECDC: Shigellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 ECDC: Salmonellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 ECDC: TEC infection - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 ECDC: Yersiniosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 New Genomic Techniques: MEPs back rules to support green transition of farmers
- 🕒 The European Parliament recognises the value of NGTs: Good news for the development and future of agriculture
- 🕒 Australia, New Zealand: Genetically modified banana approved by regulators for first time
- 🕒 Switzerland: Authorities authorises experimental release of genetically modified barley
- 🕒 Report of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) on the effects of climate change on food allergy
- 🕒 ECDC: Antimicrobial consumption and resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals
- 🕒 France reported a record high number of foodborne outbreaks in 2022, according to recently released data.
- 🕒 Research gaps and future needs for allergen prediction in food safety
- 🕒 Detection of NGT products to promote innovation in Europe



## Food Fraud

- 🕒 EU: "Breakfast directive": Council and Parliament strike deal to improve consumer information for honey, fruit jams and fruit juices
- 🕒 Norwegian firm found to have sold unfit-to-eat salmon
- 🕒 UK: Three men have been sentenced after being convicted of fraud and theft relating to poultry.
- 🕒 US: In restaurants, 25% to 70% of seafood is said to be deliberately mislabelled, mainly to pass off cheaper varieties as the more expensive and sought-after ones.
- 🕒 Authentication strategy for paprika analysis according to geographical origin and study of adulteration using near infrared spectroscopy and chemometric approaches
- 🕒 France: Massive fraud: foodwatch takes water companies to court

## EFSA: OpenFoodTox database



Source: EFSA

The EFSA database **OpenFoodTox** was developed to summarise data regarding the risks of chemicals. The database contains data derived from the screening of about 2400 documents such as EFSA opinions and includes more than 10,800 assessments for more than 5800 chemicals.

A **report on the maintenance, updating and further development of the database** was published on January 26, 2024.

As an example the results of the search for "Chlorpyrifos":

Substance	has	Component	CAS number	EC Ref No	Molecular formula	Smiles	
Chlorpyrifos	as such	Chlorpyrifos	2921-88-2	220-864-4	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> PS	S=P(OC(=NC(=C(C=Cl)O)C)C)OC(=O)C	(-)-17-Oxoparteine (-)-3,7-Dimethyl-6-octen-1-ol (-)-alpha-bisabolol (-)-Alpha-cedrene (-)-Alpha-elemol

Substance	Author	Published	Output Id	Title	Output Type	Legal Basis	Uri
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	08/28/2019	3293	Statement on the available outcomes of the human health assessment in the context of the pesticides peer review of the active substance chlorpyrifos	EFSA statement	Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1113	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2019.5809">http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2019.5809</a>
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	06/12/2015	2660	Refined risk assessment regarding certain maximum residue levels (MRLs) of concern for the active substance chlorpyrifos	Real: OpenFoodTox provides open source data for the substance characterisation, the links to EFSA's related output, background European legislation, and a summary of the critical toxicological endpoints and reference values		<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2015.4142">http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2015.4142</a>
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	04/22/2014	2492	Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide human health risk assessment of the active substance chlorpyrifos	Con: EFSA's related output, background European legislation, and a summary of the critical toxicological endpoints and reference values		<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2014.3640">http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2014.3640</a>
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	01/31/2011	1273	Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance chlorpyrifos	Con: EFSA's related output, background European legislation, and a summary of the critical toxicological endpoints and reference values	Pesticides Peer Review (EEC) No 3600/92	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2011.1961">http://dx.doi.org/10.2903/efsa.2011.1961</a>

Substance	Author	Year	Output Id	Study	Test Type	Species	Route	Duration (days)	Endpoint	Qualifier	Value	Unit	Effect	Toxicity
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	short-term toxicity	Mallard duck	oral; feed	0	LC50	=	71	mg/kg bw/day	mortality	systemic
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	acute toxicity	Bird	oral; unspecified	0	LD50	=	122	mg/kg	mortality	systemic
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	acute toxicity	Bubwhite quail	oral; unspecified	0.04	LD50	=	75	mg/kg bw	mortality	systemic
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	acute toxicity	Common quail	oral; unspecified	0	LD50	=	13.3	mg/kg bw	mortality	systemic
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	acute toxicity	Mouse	oral; unspecified	0	LD50	=	64	mg/kg bw	mortality	systemic
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	reproduction toxicity	Rat	Not reported	0	NOEL	=	1	mg/kg bw/day	not reported	not reported
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	1627	reproduction toxicity	Mallard duck	Not reported	0	NOEC	=	2.88	mg/kg bw/day	reproduction	reproductive

Substance	Author	Year	Output Id	Assessment	Qualifier	Value	Unit	Population	Remarks
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2014	2492	ADI	=	0.001	mg/kg bw/day	Consumers	
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2014	2492	AOEL	=	0.001	mg/kg bw/day	Workers	
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2014	2492	ARfD	=	0.005	mg/kg bw/day	Consumers	

Substance	Author	Year	Output Id	Genotoxicity
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2011	1273	No data
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2014	2492	Negative
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA	2015	2660	No data
Chlorpyrifos	EFSA PPR	2019	3293	Ambiguous

For more information on the OpenFoodTox database, please refer to EFSA publication: **OpenFoodTox: a freely accessible database of chemicals.**



## Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:  
[info@safefood-online.de](mailto:info@safefood-online.de)





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